

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS LFOR NATO

SUBJECT PROPOSED DCM/POLITICAL COUNSELORS' CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: WE RECOMMEND THAT ANOTHER DCM/POLADS CONFERENCE BE HELD AT NATO IN JUNE. USEC AGREES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENTS VIEWS. END SUMMARY.

1. WE NOTE THAT WASHINGTON IS PLANNING A MEETING OF SENIOR ECONOMIC OFFICERS IN WESTERN EUROPE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SECRETARY COOPER ON APRIL 21-22 IN BRUSSELS (STATE 045448). WE BELIEVE THAT IT ALSO WOULD BE USEFUL TO SCHEDULE SOON ANOTHER DCM/POLADS CONFERENCE AT NATO, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

-- CONSULATATIONS AMONG OUR DCMS AND POLADS IN EUROPE AND POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON WILL ASSIST OUR EMBASSIES IN EUROPE TO CARRY OUT MORE EFFECTIVELY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES.

-- A DCM/POLADS CONFERENCE OFFERS THE PARTICIPANTS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON AS WELL

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AS COLLEAGUES FROM OTHER EUROPEAN POSTS TO DISCUSS US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS AND US POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN DEPTH.

2. WE BELIEVE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE HELD IN BRUSSELS BECAUSE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF SUITABLE CONFERENCE FACILITIES IN USNATO, THE CENTRAL LOCATION OF BRUSSELS, AND THE POSSIBILITY FOR MEETING WITH SENIOR NON-US OFFICIALS FROM NATO, THE COMMON MARKET AND SHAPE.

3. ON TIMING, A CONFERENCE AROUND MID-TO-LATE JUNE FOLLOWING THE SUMMIT MEETING IN LONDON, SECRETARY VANCE'S MOSCOW VISIT, THE NAC,

DPC AND NPG SPRING MINISTERIALS, AND BEFORE THE BELGRADE REVIEW CONFERENCES, SEEMS APPROPRIATE. BY JUNE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION ALSO WILL HAVE DEVELOPED IN MORE DETAIL ITS POLICIES ON KEY ISSUES. WE BELIEVE THIS MEETING, LIKE THE LAST MEETING IN FEBRUARY 1976, SHOULD RUN FOR TWO AND ONE-HALF DAYS, TO ALLOW FOR MEETINGS BOTH AT USNATO AND USEC. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, WE SUGGEST EITHER JUNE 15-17 OR JUNE 22-24 AS MEETING DATES.

4. WE WOULD WELCOME WASHINGTON PARTICIPATION AND BELIEVE THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE WILL DEPEND ON SENIOR-LEVEL WASHINGTON PARTICIPATION FROM EUR, S/P, ACDA, PM, AND OSD/ISA. WE HOPE THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN WOULD BE ABLE TO CHAIR THE CONFERENCE AND, IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, THAT DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOWENSTEIN WOULD DO SO. WE BELIEVE THAT ATTENDANCE BY BOTH DCMS AND POLITICAL COUNSELLORS WILL ENRICH THE CONFERENCE AND LEAD TO A MAXIMUM EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON KEY ISSUES, AS IT DID DURING THE FEBRUARY 1976 MEETING.

5. ON SUBSTANCE, WE WOULD EXPECT TO FOCUS THE MAJOR ATTENTION ON POLITICAL-MILITARY-ECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES THAT CUT ACROSS GEOGRAPHIC LINES; I.E. TO STRUCTURE THE AGENDA FUNCTIONALLY. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO SLIGHT COUNTRY ISSUES AND WOULD PLAN TO PROVIDE FOR BRIEF PRESENTATIONS ON THE MORE IMPORTANT INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY PROBLEMS. WE ALSO WOULD DEVELOP WITH USEC ITEMS ON THE AGENDA THAT WOULD FOCUS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES CENTRAL TO WEST EUROPEAN AND EAST-WEST RELATIONS, AND TO THE INTERPLAY OF EC-NINE AND NATO. THE

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MILITARY BALANCE, DEFENSE SPENDING TRENDS, EUROCOMMUNISM, THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN EUROPE AND EAST EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS WOULD, OF COURSE, ALSO BE OF MAJOR INTEREST IN ADDITION TO CSCE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARMS CONTROL QUESTIONS (ESPECIALLY SALT AND MBFR).

6. ON FUNDING, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT EACH POST AGAIN FUND THE TRAVEL AND PER DIEM OF ITS PARTICIPANTS.

7. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN CONCURRED IN BY USEC.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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